Docket No. 9016-1003 Appln. No. 10/780,694

REMARKS

The indication of allowability of claims 3-6, 8, 11-14 and 16-38 is noted with thanks.

Accordingly, the limitations of claim 1 are added to claim 3 (apart from changing the "bolt-nut assembly" of claim 3 to the generic term "joining means", so that claim 3 can function as a generic claim as to this feature), thereby presumably placing claim 3 in condition for allowance as an independent claim, and with it the claims that depend therefrom.

There being no other objection or rejection of record, it is believed that this application has been placed in condition for allowance, and reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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